and also the agenda and the decisions taken on each issue;

(e) how much funds Government have spent so far on this project and its report;

(f) how many memoranda Government received on the project from the State Governments/associations/agencies/ individuals in the past; Southern Gas Grid and

(g) the action taken thereon, in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The concept of the Southern Gas Grid was accepted in principle in August' 92.

(b) and (c) Detailed project reports will be drawn up after the locations and requirements of gas-based plants are firmed up.

(d) Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural gas met the Chief Ministers of the Southern States and their representatives at Bangalore on the 26th March, 1994 to review the project.

(e) The Government has not incured any expenditure on the project so far.

(f) and (g) The recommendation for setting up the Southern Gas Grid has been received from various quarters including the Southern Zonal Council. The State Governments, Association of Industries, etc. have been projecting demands for gas-based plants. The Southern States have commissioned the pre-feasibility study to firm up the locations and demands of gas-based units in the Sourthern States.

Retail Marketing by Foreign Oil Companies

6261. SHRI V. NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow foreign oil companies to do retail marketing on a trial basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) it is a fact that many foreign oil companies are demanding a role in retail marketing of oil; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) The import of LPG, SKO, lubricants and lube oil base stocks have been decanalised and private parties including foreign oil companies are free to import and market these products. There is no proposal at present to allow retail marketing of MS and HSD by foreign oil companies.

Supply of Gas to Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Project in Rewas/Mandria

6262. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Electricity Authority is not taking up Rewas/Mardria combined cycle gas turbine project capacity 820 MW in Maharashtra since the availability of gas for the project has not been confirmed by the Department of Petroleum;

(b) if so, what is the status in regard to the project proposal from the Government of Maharashtra and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) what action is proposed to be taken by Government to indicate availability of gas to facilitate clearance of the said project; and

(d) what are the details of steps being taken to ensure adequate supply of gas for operating gas based projects and new projects proposed in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) The gas projected